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1 and 8 have been amended to further distinguish the invention over the cited references, to
2 further distinguish the Claims over the cited references. Reconsideration is now requested

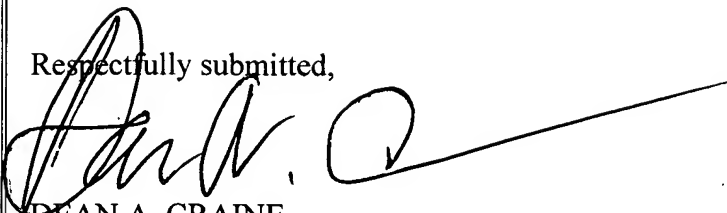
3 For the reasons discussed above, Cartier does not disclose the limitations as
4 suggested by the Examiner. In Claim 2, the wheel assembly is recited as being rotatably
5 attached to the distal end of the extension arm. It is pointed out that the wheel assembly is an
6 intermediate component used to attach the rotating wheel to the distal end of the extension
7 arm. Smith, on the other hand, discloses a line trimmer with a horizontally disposed, large
8 platform attached to the end of the trimmer's elongated handle. The platform is centrally
9 aligned around the trimmer head with a side opening formed thereon that allows the line on
10 the trimmer head to cut vegetation. Attached to the platform are three wheels designed to
11 support the trimmer head on the ground. During use, the platform is designed to partially
12 rotate around the trimmer head and the three wheels are designed to freely rotate on the
13 platform. When the user 'sweeps' the trimmer back and forth over the ground to rapidly cut
14 weeds, the wheels may be locked in position to facilitate the 'sweeping' action. In order to do
15 so, however, the platform MUST be free to partially rotate on the pole.

16 According to the Examiner, it would be obvious to provide wheels in Cartier with the
17 locks disclosed in Smith in order to facilitate operation of Cartier. The Applicant submits
18 adding locks to Cartier would substantially change the nature and operation of the trimmer,
19 and that it is unclear how such locks would facilitate its operation.

20 The tentative allowability of Claims 5-7 and 9-11 is acknowledged. Amendment of
21 these claims to include the limitations of the base claims and all intervening claims is
22 temporarily suspended pending reconsideration of Claims 1 and 8 (Currently Amended).

23 For all of the above reasons, the pending claims should now be considered allowable.

1 Respectfully submitted,

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6 Attorney for Applicant
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